

CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF LODI
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 29, 1975

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Lodi was held pursuant to written notice being mailed to each member of the City Council, KCRA TV News, the Stockton Record, the Lodi News Sentinel, Lodi Cable TV, and KCRA Radio Station at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in compliance with Section 54956 of the California Government Code. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ben Schaffer at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 1975 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmen - EHRHARDT, HUGHES,
KATNICH, PINKERTON and SCHAFFER
(Mayor)

Absent: Councilmen - None

Also Present: City Manager Graves, Assistant
City Manager Glenn, City Attorney Mullen, Public
Works Director Ronsko, and City Clerk Alice
Reimche

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilman Ehrhardt.

PLEDGE

Mayor Schaffer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the
flag.

Representatives of the Southern Pacific Transpor-
tation Company, who were present, were intro-
duced as follows:

INTRODUCTION OF
S.P.
REPRESENTATIVES

Ken Dixon, Assistant Superintendent, Bakersfield,
California

Joe E. Neal, Superintendent, Bakersfield,
California

Bill Wilkinson, Senior Assistant Division Engineer,
Bakersfield, California

Henry Ortiz, Public Relations Department,
San Francisco, California

City Manager Graves apprised the Council and
representatives present from the Southern Pacific
Company that the purpose of this meeting was to
discuss the Southern Pacific Transportation Company
(1) plans for a switch yard; (2) items of safety; and
(3) maintenance of facilities in the City of Lodi.

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S.P. PLANS FOR
SWITCHYARD

Following introduction of the matter of plans for a switchyard by City Manager Glaves, questions were directed by Council to the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. staff. Mr. Neal responded by stating that the relocation of the switchyards to the area between Harney and Kettleman Lane is a project that has been under discussion for some time; that it is estimated that this project would mean expenditures of approximately \$2,000,000 by the Southern Pacific Co., and Mr. Neal indicated that the Company at this time just does not have the funds in the budget to go forward with the project.

In response to Councilman Katnich's inquiry as to what the Southern Pacific's best estimate would be for a time schedule on this project, Mr. Neal replied that he didn't see any time schedule, that although it would increase efficiencies in Lodi's operations, it is far down on a list of major items being considered in San Francisco. Mr. Neal added that an estimated guess would be possibly 10 years. Mr. Neal went on to state that the Southern Pacific has tried to make some intelligent decisions in regards to the relocation of the switchyard, but other than that, it is only in the planning stages.

S.P. MORAL &
LEGAL OBLIGATION
TO COMMUNITY

Councilman Katnich questioned Mr. Neal as to what he felt were Southern Pacific's moral and legal obligations to a community that it serves. Mr. Neal replied that the Southern Pacific Company feels that they have both a moral and legal obligation to any community they operate in and out of; that they are interested in creating a favorable corporate image as far as building upkeep and maintenance is concerned. Mr. Neal added that a lot of monies that Southern Pacific had set aside for housekeeping are no longer available, because of the economic situation. Mr. Neal stated that Southern Pacific feels that they are a part of the community, and that since September 1974, the Company has spent \$174,000 in Lodi on street upgrading and crossings.

BICYCLE PATHS
ALONG S.P. R/W TO
MICKE GROVE
PROPOSED

Councilman Pinkerton stated that he would like to see a bicycle path established along the railroad's right-of-way to Micke Grove and wondered if it would be possible to relieve the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. of liability so that this could be accomplished. Mr. Neal stated that the City can't absolve the Southern Pacific from liability.

Councilman Pinkerton then requested that City Attorney Mullen give his opinion on this, and Mr. Mullen stated that the only way it could be done would be for the Southern Pacific Co. to grant an easement to the City of Lodi over a certain strip, and then the City would have to agree to hold the Southern Pacific Co. harmless, but that this would only cover property within the City Limits.

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Mr. Ortiz interjected that creating good will is something "we" all value, but the problem is that there are train movements along these rights-of-way and that the railroads have tried very hard over the years to establish "safety-first programs" to keep children away from railroads; and in this case, the railroad would be a party to enticing children to these rights-of-way.

LODI ARCH
BEAUTIFICA-
TION PROGRAM

Councilman Ehrhardt questioned why the Southern Pacific has delayed in working with the local Women's Club in the proposed Lodi Arch Beautification Program. Mr. Neal responded by stating that they have been corresponding with these ladies and that presently they are waiting for the Women's Club to forward a landscaping plan for the area, which plan is supposedly being formulated by Delta College.

S. P. PROPERTY
N. SIDE OF
LODI ARCH

Councilman Ehrhardt expressed his concern regarding a large unsightly hole that had been left following the removal of a service station located on Southern Pacific property on the north side of the arch and asked why it had taken so long to correct this situation. Mr. Neal stated that they had waited for the leasee to return the property to its original state as was required in his lease on this property with the Southern Pacific Company. After some period of time, when it became apparent that this was not going to be done by the leasee, the Southern Pacific Co. completed the work. Discussion followed regarding the City leasing this parcel of land for additional parking, and other Southern Pacific property in the area.

MAINTENANCE
& REPAIRS TO
S. P.
PROPERTY

Following inquiries by Council and the City Attorney as to whether the City could do clean up and minor repair work to Southern Pacific property, Mr. Neal responded by saying that the City could ask for and that the Southern Pacific Co. could give the City a Beautification Lease on these properties; however, the City would then be responsible for liabilities occurring on these properties. Mr. Neal also apprised the City Council and staff that if the Southern Pacific would allow the City to get involved in some of the maintenance work on Southern Pacific property, that the Southern Pacific would then be in violation of their labor contracts.

BLOCKING OF
RAILROAD
CROSSINGS

City Attorney Mullen briefed the Council, staff, and Southern Pacific representatives on past and present City and State legislation regarding the blocking of railroad crossings. Discussion followed on the matter with Mr. Neal advising that the Southern Pacific's policy on railroad crossing blocking is that "we" do not block crossings standing still for any more than 10 minutes, if "we" do, "we" instruct our train crews, and this is law, that they are to cut the crossings or make the breaks so that the traffic can proceed. Mr. Neal stated that if there is an emergency situation, it is the company's policy to call the local police department advising them of the emergency situation, the location, and that the crossing will be blocked in excess of 10 minutes. Mr. Neal added that if you have a situation where a crossing has been blocked in excess of 10 minutes, a call giving the time, should be placed to Mr. Marsh, Local Trainmaster.

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Mayor Schaffer then opened the meeting to hear from citizens who were in the audience.

CITIZENS VOICE
OPPOSITION TO
HARNEY -
KETTLEMAN
SWITCHYARD
AREA

Paul Gage, 168 Hemlock Drive, Lodi stated that his concern and the concern of those people with him in the audience is the location of the proposed switchyard (between Kettleman and Harney Lane, just south of Century Boulevard), as this location is exactly opposite from their homes. Mr. Gage stated that it is gratifying to hear that the Southern Pacific has made no firm commitments as to the location of the proposed yard and that it is hoped in the future when the Southern Pacific does select a site, that consideration will be given to housing particularly in that area.

Following an inquiry regarding possible switchyard sites, Mr. Neal stated that Victor would not be considered as a possible site; however, it would not be out of the realm of possibility to locate at Acampo, Elk Grove, or as far south as Lathrop. Mr. Neal indicated that he would favor the Lathrop area. Mr. Neal added that a lot would depend on new industry and that certainly homes would be taken into consideration.

Mr. Ricky R. Shaeffer, 2113 Alpine Drive, Lodi admonished the Council for approving a residential district adjacent to the railroad track, where the Southern Pacific is planning to build a switchyard, and asked if the Council is going to continue approving subdivision adjacent to this railroad track.

COUNCIL
ADMONISHED
FOR APPROV-
ING SUBDI-
VISION
ADJACENT TO
R.R. TRACKS

Councilman Hughes requested that the record reflect this statement so that if at some future time, a subdivision is being considered in a like situation that the record will reflect that Mr. Shaeffer chastised the Council strongly for this subdivision being approved. Councilman Hughes indicated that information had been furnished the Council at the time this subdivision had been approved indicating that it would not present a problem. Councilman Hughes reiterated that the Council is concerned about this situation and feels that this is something that will have to be watched in the future.

SAFETY ITEMS
OF CONCERN

Items of concern regarding safety within the City were discussed. Councilman Katnich extended an invitation to Mr. Dixon to lunch with him and other members of the Council, after which Mr. Dixon will be given a tour to point out those areas regarding safety within the community that are of concern to the City Council. Councilman Katnich indicated that he hoped that this could be done in the near future. Mr. Neal assured Councilman Katnich that Mr. Dixon would accept this invitation.

S.P. REPRESENTATIVE TO
MEET WITH
SAFETY
COUNCIL

Councilman Ehrhardt also extended an invitation to Mr. Dixon to attend a local Safety Council meeting. Mr. Neal also assured the Council that Mr. Dixon would be accepting this invitation.

JOINT OPERATED
TRACK USAGE
SUGGESTED
TO ELIMINATE
LODI AVENUE LINE

Mayor Schaffer questioned whether it might be possible for the railroads to share the Southern Pacific's Lockeford Street line, thereby eliminating the need for the Lodi Avenue line, stressing that Lodi Avenue is the major east-west street in Lodi, and that this joint use of the Lockeford Street line would certainly be of benefit and for the betterment of the community. Mr. Neal indicated that it was certainly within the realm of possibility that this could be done as there are a lot of joint operated tracks in California. It was suggested that those involved get together to see what arrangements could be made toward this proposal.

Mr. Dixon stated that he had attended a meeting earlier where the trackage in the middle of Lodi had been discussed. Mr. Dixon apprised the Council that the Central California Traction comes down Lodi Avenue for two reasons: 1) to interchange cars with the Southern Pacific and 2) to serve several industries in that same area. Mr. Dixon stressed that trackage in the middle of any street is a bad situation - that trains and vehicles are not that compatible.

AREA OF TOKAY &
KETTLEMAN LANE
FOR SWITCHING
DISCUSSED

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the area of tracks between Tokay and Kettleman Lane and the possible use of that area for switching. Mr. Neal stated that there are two problems with that area: 1) width of the right-of-way in which to put the facilities needed by the Southern Pacific Co. 2) and that the distance between Tokay and Kettleman Lane in terms of today's trains is not long. Many questions regarding the possible use of this area for switching were posed by the City Council to the Southern Pacific Company representatives and considerable discussion followed.

CONCERN EX-
PRESSED RE LINES
OF COMMUNICATION

The subject of communications and methods of keeping better lines of communication open between the City and the Southern Pacific was discussed. Following a request by City Manager Graves, Mr. Neal promised to forward a list of Southern Pacific personnel, who the City should contact regarding specific matters.

CITY CLERK
DIRECTED TO SEND
COPIES OF MINUTES
TO S.P. REPRESENTATIVES

At the request of Councilman Katnich, the City Clerk was directed to forward a copy of the minutes of this meeting to all representatives present from the Southern Pacific Company.

MAYOR REQUESTS
INFORMATION ON
R.R. CAR COUNT

Mayor Schaffer requested that the Southern Pacific Transportation Company provide the City with information regarding the volume of railroad cars going out of Lodi in a year's period of time. Mr. Neal stated that this information will be forthcoming shortly; however, Mr. Neal pointed out that a car count is not a good basis, as it is possible to load three of the old standard size car pay loads in one of the mechanical reefers being used today.

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PLANNING &
RAILROAD
INPUT
DISCUSSED

The importance of the railroads and the City working together in future planning for the City was discussed by Council and representatives of the Southern Pacific Co. Mr. Graves stated that it was a real tragedy that it didn't occur to all of "us" in 1952, when the General Plans of the City were being discussed to have included the railroad much more intimately for their input into designing the community. Further discussion on this subject followed, with Mayor Schaffer directing Public Works Director Ronsko to supply the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. with information regarding the City's General Plan.

CROSSING
GATES/
CLOSING OF
CROSSINGS

The installation of gates across railroad crossings and the possible closure of three crossings within the City was discussed with questions being directed to Staff and Southern Pacific representatives.

MUTUAL
COOPERATION
PROMISED BY
S. P. & CITY

With Council's concurrence, Mayor Schaffer directed staff to cooperate fully with the Southern Pacific and stated that the City would be looking forward to future meetings with the Southern Pacific.

Mr. Neal stated that he feels the establishing of lines of communication had been accomplished by the airing of mutual problems by both the Southern Pacific and the City and promised cooperation with the City on problems of mutual concern.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Schaffer adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p. m.

Alice M. Reimche
ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk